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Activities related to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the task team on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the ways in which the global geospatial community continues to contribute to sustainable development and support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Summary of the report

At its fifth session, held in New York from 5 to 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted its decision 5/101, on activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda, in which it noted that the explicit mention of earth observation and geospatial information in the finalized text for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provided a considerable opportunity for Member States since objective, comprehensive and authoritative data and information will be needed in a timely manner to support sustainable development policy and decision-making at all levels. In order to raise the profile of geospatial information as an enabler for sustainable development, the Committee of Experts committed to working closely with the statistical community, at both the national and global levels, by providing inputs into the processes to develop the global indicator framework under the auspices of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. The Committee of Experts

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supported the nomination of a limited number of Member State geospatial experts to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and agreed to the proposal to set up a small task team to assist in developing the inputs into the global indicator framework.

In its report, the task team on 2030 Sustainable Development Goal indicators describes the formation of the task team, delineates its terms of reference and provides an overview of the activities the task team has engaged in to advance the understanding and the role of geospatial information and earth observations in contributing to the global indicator framework. It also details the progressive understanding and acceptance of geospatial information as a key integrating enabler for determining "geographic location" within the global indicators for the statistical community. This culminated at the forty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission, held from 8 to 11 March 2016, at which the Inter-Agency and Expert Group noted in its report that the integration of geospatial information and statistical data would be key for the development of a number of the global indicators. As a means to address these issues, a working group on geospatial information, reporting to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, was established at the third meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, held in Mexico City from 30 March-1 April 2016.